



QST63

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Branch 63 Clubrooms
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Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.

August 2010

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Hi everyone...

Hope all is going well in your areas of interest as we start to say good-bye to the long nights, the days become longer, even though the weather is still cold.

I recently attended the Whangārei clubs Triple Dip - a junk sale, series of forums and a dinner with entertainment (Saturday 17 July 2010) - all in one day! The junk sale is held first with doors open to the public from 10.30 am. This allows those travelling from Auckland or further a field plenty of time to get there. I travelled on the Friday with Jim ZL2BHF so we had a more leisurely start to the Saturday. The sale went well. I presented a session IRLP, the same talk I gave at the Auckland NZART Conference. Later in the evening the team I was in came second in the Pub styled quiz, having missed out on first place by a poor round which we had selected for double points. A great time was had and a few ideas came out as what could be included in the local EXPO sale days in there is enough interest.

As I have missed a few Friday nights with the above event, a Phoenix game, and a trip down to Christchurch, no doubt I will catch up with all in due course on the 6 August. Speaking of which I hope you have all had the opportunity to look at the whiteboard, and have been considering which jobs you are ready to do for the upcoming conference. At the end of August there will be another Conference meeting to start handing out the jobs, so get your name in against them now.

Debby and I recently re-visited the venue, as it has been some time since both of us had looked around. Many changes have taken place, and even more are underway. Debby was there to look at Councils requirements over the weekend, while I was looking generally at the accommodation and venue buildings. This time we were show around by the Manager, who has suggested some changes to my thinking about the venue, catering and accommodation, so to this end here is the next conference update meeting information.

Please make the effort to attend.

Conference Meeting: Friday 27 August 2010, 8.00 pm Branch Clubrooms.

Well that's the news from me... 73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UFI

Branch 63 Repeater Update

1292 23cm

One step forward and one step back with the 23cm repeater this month.

RF Deck

On the one hand the Local Oscillator is officially fixed with the Local Oscillator frequency stability much improved since the new xtal was installed. However the Diplexer that was off tune last month is sick. It appears that the reason for the reduction in RF out is due to internal arking. Taking the lid off the diplexer shows carbon marks on the tx side tuning slugs and cavitys. The unit can be refurbished – we have two spares and will be recommissioned with reduced tx power.

Tait IF

The Second tx Chassis has been refurbished by John ZL2TWS for use as a spare. He is also looking at the reason why the spare Rx is so deaf (-110 dbm).

VK5DJ Repeater Controller

Still to apply the Firmware update.

860 70cm

Nothing to report

730 / 5425 2m Repeater.

Nothing to report.

Simon ZL2BRG

Very interesting link sent by Tom ZL2HGR

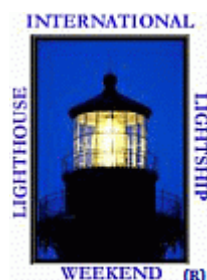
On this page you can listen to and control a short-wave receiver located at the amateur radio club [ETGD](#) at the [University of Twente](#). In contrast to other web-controlled receivers, this receiver can be tuned by multiple users simultaneously, thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio.

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

Light House Weekend 21-22 August 2010

Light house and Light ship weekend which is 21-22 August, We are currently looking at the Karori Light as the destination for this year....and if all goes to plan it could become a regular trip for us. Please let me know (Tom) if you are a starter or not, we could extend an invitation to other clubs in the area.

Regards
Tom ZL2HGR & Malcolm ZL2UDF



Silent Key

John H (Jack) Marett

Only those involved with the branch over thirty years ago will remember Jack. It is appropriate that his recent passing is recorded in QST63.

Jack held the ZL2BAI callsign and was President of Branch 63 in the late 1960s. He was active on the air, on field days and with AREC, and helped many prospective hams obtain their licences. (Including two of his sons David and Graeme) However his greatest contribution was being the driving force behind the kitset projects which occupied many in the club in the 1970s and generated the finance which funded equipment for the clubrooms and the original Mt Climie repeater and beacons.

The first project was an 80/40/20m SSB transceiver with built-in 12Vdc/230Vac power supply based on a design by Upper Hutt ham John Herbert ZL2BDB. Over 120 kits were sent out to ZLs with a few going overseas. The midnight oil was frequently burned by those involved sorting and packing components and answering the questions raised by constructors.

The famous "Tucker-tin" for beginners, designed by Fred ZL2AMJ, followed then by a 2m transceiver particularly for use on the Climie repeater.

Jack's other "hobby" was music. He was organist and choirmaster at St John's, Trentham for a time. He was a Technician at the Hutt Valley Electric Power and Gas Board and later a tutor at the Technical Correspondence Institute (now the Open Poly Tech).

His, and Joan's, three sons all moved to Sydney and the parents followed in about 1980. Jack worked in communications for the NSW Rural Fire Service. He was active as VK2DMC and completed several six month drives around Australia keeping in touch on HF.

Joan predeceased him about ten years ago. He is survived by three sons, Allan, David and Graeme, several grand children and a few great grand children.

Sent to us by John Dunkley ZL2BED

Corrected by Peter Norden ZL2SJ

Eric ZL2SET wishes to thank everyone for the condolences and those who attended the funeral of XYL Sandy. It is much appreciated. Her passing was premature and unexpected, leaving a devastated OM.

As a consequence, the July issue of the newsletter was not sent out by mail, but hopefully those expecting a copy will receive a double issue this month.

73

Eric.

FOUR THINGS YOU PROBABLY NEVER KNEW YOUR MOBILE PHONE COULD DO !!!

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival.

Check out the things that you can do with it:

FIRST

Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for all Mobile Phones is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and your mobile will search any existing network in your area to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked. This works on all phones worldwide and is free. **It is the equivalent of 000.**

SECOND

Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone:

If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone.

Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end.

Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be **thousands** of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

Editor's Note: I didn't believe this when I heard about it! I rang my daughter in Sydney from Perth when we went on holiday. She had the spare car key. We tried it out and it unlocked our car over a mobile phone!

THIRD

Hidden Battery Power

To activate, press the keys *3370# (remember the asterisk). Do this when the phone is almost dead. Your mobile will restart in a special way with this new reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery life. This reserve will get re charged when you charge your mobile next time.

This secret is in the fine print in most phone manuals. Most people however skip this information without realising.

FOURTH

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 #
Ensure you put an asterisk BEFORE the #06# sequence.

A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. **If your phone ever get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless.**

You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody done this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

This secret is also in the fine print of most mobile phone manuals. It was created for the very purpose of trying to prevent phones from being stolen.

Also -ATM PIN Number Reversal - Good to Know !!

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your PIN # in reverse. For example, if your pin number is 1234, then you would put in 4321. The ATM system recognizes that your PIN number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location.

All ATM's carry this emergency sequencer by law.

This information was recently broadcast on by Crime Stoppers however it is seldom used because people just don't know about it.

Please pass this along to everyone.

This is the kind of information people don't mind receiving, so pass it on to your family and friends

Ok

Were you really impressed?

First I would like to point out that the Editors comments were as sent to me and left in for effect.

First

112 is actually emergency services in some parts of Europe. If you are in London and dial 112 it will connect you to the 999 emergency service. In NZ of course we use 111 and if you have no signal it won't work. In some of these spam emails 112 is meant to connect you to a satellite if there is no terrestrial service. Really??

Second

Think about it. We are Hams after all. Most modern cars use radio signals for the remote lock. Before that there were a few Infrared and they wouldn't work over the cell phone either.

Third

*3 on a certain brand of phone locks the keypad. Just make sure you know the unlock code before you try this one.

Fourth

Your cell phone service provider already has this number. They use it to disable phones from delinquent accounts. If you really want the number it's usually on a little sticker behind the battery. I don't know what *#anything does on your phone but maybe it's your keypad lock code.

ATM

What if your pin code is 1221 ? You would be getting visits from the boys in blue all the time.

I'm not going to dob in the person who sent this to me but he may have sent it to you too. If you Google a few buzz words from the subject line or each of the claims you can soon learn the truth.

This was the top of my search list.

<http://www.hoax-slayer.com/mobile-phone-tips.shtml>

Please don't perpetuate myths and hoaxes like this. This one was forwarded with the email addresses of the previous 10 or so recipients. I take great delight in sending this sort of reply to all of them.

**Club HF Net 3.715 MHz
Every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.*